

The Companion to African Literatures

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Guide to Readers

The Companion to African Literatures is an alphabetically organized, comprehensive guide to work written in English or widely available in translation from other languages. There are separate entries for selected African language literatures, with an emphasis on works available to readers of English.

Cross-referencing: *Asterisks are used before the first appearance of a word within each entry to indicate that a separate related entry appears elsewhere in *The Companion*.

There are entries in the following categories:

Authors writing in English. Author entries include biographical information, details of major publications, and comment on their critical reputation.

Authors who write in an African or non-African language, but some of whose work is available in English translation.

Selected works of an author, giving brief descriptive entries.

Language entries distinguish *The Companion* from other reference works to the literature of the African continent. Selected African languages with published literatures (Gikuyu, Hausa, Igbo, Krio, Malagasy, Ndebele, Pidgin, Shona, Sotho, Swahili, Tsonga, Xhosa, Yoruba and Zulu). Entries on works which are written in Afrikaans, Portuguese (see *Lusophone Literature*), and French (see the *Novel, Francophone*), but which are mostly available in translation.

Themed entries as listed below are **further sub-divided alphabetically by region** (East Africa; South-Central Africa, South Africa and West Africa), categories which reflect differences in the literatures as shaped by their colonial and post-colonial experiences. (The literatures of North Africa, when available in translation from Arabic and French into English, are described through individual author entries).

Literary genres and sub-genres: Drama, the Novel, Poetry, the Short Story, Popular Literature, Oral Tradition and Folklore, Anthologies, Biography and Autobiography, Children's Literature, Literary Magazines

Relations between literature and extra-literary influences: Religion and Literature (Christianity, Islam, and Traditional African Religions), Politics and Literature, War Literature, Censorship, Women in Literature

Selected list of topics and themes:

- | | |
|---|--|
| African Writers Series | Negritude |
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| African-British Literature | Novel, the |
| African-Canadian Literature | Onitsha Popular Market Literature |
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| Maghrebi Literature | Xhosa Literature |
| Malagasy | Yoruba Literature |
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Topics and Themes

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- African-Canadian Literature
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